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5 Sept 1874

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1874.]

[CONFIDENTIAL]

SELECTIONS
FROM THE
VERNACULAR NEWSPAPERS
PUBLISHED IN THE PANJĀB,
NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES,
OUDH, AND CENTRAL PROVINCES,

Received up to 5th September, 1874.

POLITICAL (DOMESTIC.)

The *Panjábí Akhbár* of the 22nd August draws the attention of the Municipality of Lahore to the need of repairing the following places :—

- (a.) The drain near Sabzpir in Hira Mandi, which is in very bad order and is always full of dirty water.
- (b.) The road leading from Khári Khu to Chaumálí and running in front of Samaiyon, which is full of ruts and holes; both the bridges on the same road have broken down.
- (c.) The *kachha* drain in Chaumálí, in which the water of the surrounding mahallas is collected. This water finds no discharge except in the rainy season, and consequently a very offensive smell is emitted from the drain at all times.

A correspondent of the same paper, who had occasion to visit Aligarh recently, says that in the rainy season several places in that city, such as the Mandi, Sultán-ki-Sarái, and other saráis are three feet under water. The writer considers this discreditable to the Municipal Committee of the city.

The *Roznámcha* of the 26th August, in its local news columns, notices the pitiable condition of the poor people inhabiting the land of the Khaláiq Bágh (Lucknow) extending from the eastern side of Machchibhawan Fort to Bailey Guard. From morning till 8 o'clock at night a police guard is kept at the place, probably in order to prevent European soldiers from oppressing the people. After that time the place is left quite unprotected, and thieves and other persons of bad livelihood have it all their own way, and cause much trouble and annoyance to the cultivators, orchard-keepers, and other inhabitants.

Government is asked to adopt measures for removing this grievance.

The *Rohilkhand Akhbár* of the same date has an article on the mismanagement of the post-office, and suggests measures for removing the evils complained of. The writer begins by remarking that in cities where portable tin-boxes are kept at different places for receiving letters, which are opened at the Sadr Post-office (the keys remaining in the custody of the head despatcher) before a number of persons, and are immediately sorted and the stamps affixed to them defaced by the post-office seal, the postal servants find fewer opportunities for detaching the stamps or resorting to similar dishonest practices, than they do in cities where heavy letter-boxes are posted in different quarters, which are cleared on the spot by a person appointed for the purpose. As a rule, however, it is not so much the dishonesty of postmasters or deputy postmasters as the negligence of delivery-peons that is the cause of paid letters seldom reaching the addressees.

The writer goes on to say that in the mufassil post-offices there is ample opportunity for nefarious practices, and that villagers are so little sure of the safety of paid letters that more than 90 per cent. of the letters received at the post-offices for despatch are sent bearing. But these, too, share a bad fate. The delivery-peons detain all letters addressed to villages four

or five *kos* from the post-office till a sufficient number of them have collected, consequence being that letters frequently reach their destination after several weeks, if not months.

The writer has been an eye-witness of this state of things at Partabgarh and other places in Oudh, and remarks that, when such is the case with bearing letters, it may be imagined what little hope of delivery there is for paid ones. As a rule they are all destroyed, with the exception of a few addressed to persons from whom the peons get a regular allowance in money or grain. Moreover, the peons have no hesitation in demanding $1\frac{1}{4}$ and even $1\frac{1}{2}$ annas, instead of 1 anna, on each bearing letter.

After recording the above remarks, the editor proceeds to suggest the following plans for putting a stop to the abuses in question :—

(1) A proclamation should be made by beat of drum directing the people to mark the stamps affixed by them to covers by writing across them in English figures the day, month, and year, or else the addressee's name.

(2) Delivery-peons should be furnished with a register, on which they should be required to procure the signatures of the addressees in the proper column before making over the letters to them.

The *Roznámchá* of the 27th August regrets to find that, though so much was written by it last year about the oppressions practised on the people in multifarious shapes by Panáh Ali, a notorious bad character living in Maulviganj (Lucknow), no proceedings should have been taken against the man by the local authorities. Taking things from shopkeepers and other poor persons without paying for them, waylaying strangers and robbing them, abusing gentlemen in the public streets, &c., &c., are common practices with him.

The editor hopes Government will not fail now to adopt measures against this *badma'ash*.

The *Asdr-ul-Amsâr* of the same date wonders that, while Government is adopting measures for prohibiting the publication of books of an immoral tendency in the vernacular, and in its excessive zeal has been led to find fault even with some standard oriental works, its attention should not have been directed to the desirability of suppressing obscenity and immorality of a worse type, such as are visible at the *Alola* fair held in Lucknow city in the rainy season, on which occasion the most obscene songs are sung and indecent dances performed in public.

The *Benares Akhbâr* of the same date, in an article contributed by a correspondent, condemns the peaceful policy of the English Government, and urges on it the imperative necessity of increasing the strength of its army. At present, while other European powers are constantly adding to their military strength, this Government is always contemplating a reduction in the numbers and the expense of its army. The writer thinks this an unwise and a mistaken policy.

In its local news columns the same paper notices the injury done to the city of Benares by the heavy rain which fell there on the 25th and 26th August. About 500 houses are said to have fallen down, and 80 persons to have been killed by being buried beneath the ruins. Several places, such as Goverdhân-ki-Sarâi, Aurangâbâd, Chet Ganj, the Mandâkin Gardens, &c., were deluged with water. The total loss is estimated at two lakhs of rupees.

The *Aligarh Institute Gazette* of the 28th August says that, as in 1873, Aligarh has been visited by a flood this year, which has done considerable damage. The zamîndârs whose corn-fields have suffered from the flood have been heard to say that in this year as well as in the past Government should not have collected the jama from them, as they reaped no harvest from their fields.

The same paper has an article on the undue partiality shown by the English law towards Europeans. Within a

short period some eight cases of murder have been tried in the different High Courts of British India, in which the perpetrators were Europeans, and the victims natives. Without a single exception, all the European murderers escaped with impunity, having been declared by juries of their own countrymen, in the face of overwhelming evidence of positive guilt, as only perpetrators of acts done accidentally, or in a state of drunkenness, or extreme excitement of mind, or as having struck some diseased part of the victim's body, without intending grievous hurt. The case of the two Madras privates who murdered in cold blood two natives without any provocation, and were declared "not guilty" by the European jury, in spite of the unquestionable evidence of both European and native witnesses to the contrary, had scarcely ceased being commented upon by the press 'as a most lamentable failure of justice,' when we learn of another from the *Bombay Gazette*, tried on the 27th June before the High Court of Bombay. Mr. J. C. Hall, Superintendent of the Revenue Survey in Gujrát, shot three native troopers who were passing by, on the groundless suspicion that they were coming to seize hold of him. The jury, as usual, returned the verdict that the prisoner committed the act with which he was charged in an unsound state of mind ; and the Judge, to show his appreciation of the verdict and to let the world believe that impartial justice had been dealt out, ordered the prisoner to be kept in the Lunatic Asylum for a short time to be cured of the alleged insanity. The writer is at a loss to understand what is meant by unsoundness of mind which exculpates the wilful murder of three human beings. It could not be ordinary madness, seeing that the prisoner up to the date of the commission of the crime was in full possession of his senses, and discharged satisfactorily the duties of his high and responsible post.

It has been declared by many right-thinking judges, and unanimously confessed both by the English and the native press, that impartial justice can never be dealt out to Her

Majesty's Indian subjects until the mock system of trial by jury composed exclusively of Englishmen is entirely done away with. A great love for the honour and good name of their countrymen makes it difficult for most English jurors to bring in a verdict of guilty against Europeans, whereas no such considerations weigh with them when the defendant is a native.

The writer trusts that the Legislative Council will reform this defect in the law.

The *Akhbár-i-Anjuman-i-Panjáb* of the same date has an article on the killing of dogs. The writer begins by thanking the Panjáb Government, in the first instance, for having taken due notice of the complaints lately published in vernacular newspapers on this subject, and having issued orders to all officers subordinate to it requiring them to prohibit the killing of dogs in the public streets and thoroughfares in their respective districts, and the Government of the North-Western Provinces, in the second instance, for having issued a similar order in those provinces ; and then proceeds to say that the order is not yet fully carried into effect in most districts of the Panjáb. A large number of these animals are still killed in each town in a very cruel manner, and rewards are assigned by Government to the killers—a policy which the editor strongly censures. He thinks it a pity that Government should give rewards for killing dogs, which are so useful to man, and should offer no similar encouragement for the killing of snakes, which every year cause the death of a large number of human beings. According to the *Panjáb Annual Administration Report* for 1871-72, as many as 909 deaths were caused in that year by snake-bites ; while at present these noxious reptiles are to be found in such great numbers in several districts of the Panjáb, such as Firozpur, Ludhiána, Jagráon, &c., that the zamin-dárs cannot cultivate their fields in peace.

The *Hindú Prakás̄h* of the same date says that the streets and bazaars of the Lahore city and Anarkali are swept and

watered late in the evening, to the great inconvenience of the people. The attention of the Municipal Committees is invited to this, and they are asked to issue an order to the effect that in future the streets should be watered before being swept, as is done at Amritsar.

In its correspondence columns the same paper mentions the following particulars :—

Bannū.—The arrangements for the cleanliness of the city are indifferent. The lanes and by-streets in particular remain so dirty that there is great fear of disease breaking out.

Peshawar.—The sarái built at an expense of about Rs. 60,000 by Colonel Pollock, the Commissioner, at a distance of four or five miles from the city, and in which a great commercial mart was held in the first year after its construction, was neglected on that officer's departure to England, and its building materials have now been sold by auction for Rs. 6,000. If a new sarái be built outside the Lahori Durwāza, it would serve a useful commercial purpose, and both the people and the Government would derive much benefit.

A correspondent of the *Lauh-i-Mahfuz* of the same date, writing from Kiráoni in the Agra District, complains of the difficulty experienced by the inhabitants of villages in procuring postage-stamps. These can of course be had at tahsils, but the condition that they should be sold to the public in quantities of the value of not less than Rs. 5 at a time is a serious obstacle in the way of the people who, as a rule, wish to purchase one or two stamps only.

The writer hopes Government will abolish the condition in question and permit the sale of postage-stamps in any quantity at each tahsil—a plan which, besides removing the inconvenience now suffered by villagers in procuring stamps, will insure an increase in their sale.

The same paper remarks on the desirability of laying down a rule prohibiting furious driving in the bazaars and streets of large and populous cities, in order to prevent the frequent accidents which result from this recklessness.

The same paper gives a detail of the losses caused in certain cities of the North-Western Provinces and the Panjab by the recent heavy rains. In Gházípur, the embankment erected by the authorities as a precautionary measure, at a cost of several thousand rupees, to prevent the encroachments of the river, has been washed away by the flood and more than half of the town of Baliya has been cut away, and thousands of its inhabitants have become houseless. In Aligarh numerous corn-fields have been destroyed; in Sikandra Rao and Agra a large number of houses have been demolished, and some persons have been killed or severely hurt; and in Moradabad the crops of many villages have been spoilt, owing to the water remaining on the lowland near the railroad.

In Dera Ismá'il Khán several villages of Kach which were situated on the bank of the Indus have been carried away by the encroachments of the river, and the dák bungalow at Kalánchi and the dispensary have been destroyed; and a similar calamity has befallen villages in the Firozpur District, several of which have been cut away by the Satlaj.

The *Koh-i-Núr* of the 29th August has a long article on the practice obtaining in some parts of India, and fast spreading throughout the country, viz., that some people never give their daughters in marriage without receiving money or other consideration in return—a subject so often noticed in the *Selections*.

The writer pronounces the practice as extremely sinful, and dwells on the pernicious consequences, both political and social, resulting from it. It is not sanctioned by any religion or national custom, and is altogether at variance with

the sacred law of marriage, with humanity, honour, and good sense. It is slave-dealing in a disguised form, and is the cause of numerous girls being kidnapped and sold, cases of which are frequent, two such having only recently been brought up in the Court of the Assistant Commissioner at Ludhiána. In one of these, a barber's wife was carried away by Seva Singh and Búta Singh and was married to Fath Chand, *wasilbágínavís* of Jagráon Tahsíl, on the pretence of her being a *Khatráni* and a maiden, and their sister and daughter, on payment of Rs. 700; and it was not till after fifteen months that the secret was discovered and the perpetrators of the offence were brought to justice. In the other case, one Naráyan Singh, lambardár of Pahlíwál, who had made it his profession to seduce women from their homes and sell them, has been sentenced to fifteen months' rigorous imprisonment.

In short, the abuse in question is the cause of the sacred contract of matrimony being regarded merely as a kind of pecuniary bargain. The highest bidder of course carries off the prize, but cases are not rare in which a man betroths his daughter to several persons, taking money from each.

The editor strongly urges on Government the need of putting an effective stop to the abuse, by treating it as an offence under the Indian Penal Code, both the receiver and the giver of any consideration in return for daughters given in marriage being held punishable.

The same paper says that, owing to the recent inactivity of the *Dharm Sabhá* and the apathy of the Honorary Magistrates, the crime of adultery is again on the increase in Amritsar. Women of bad character entice away ladies of respectable families from Darbár Sáhib and other sacred places commonly visited by the latter, for improper purposes. If the authorities were to make an inquiry, they would find also that brothels are still kept up in the city.

A Ludhiána correspondent of the same paper invites the attention of the municipal committee of that city to the following abuses :—

(a.) Furious driving in the public streets and bázars, which has been the cause of a lad being seriously hurt recently.

(b.) Sweeping the streets late in the evening.

Another correspondent of the same paper, writing from Abbotabad, mentions the frequency of thefts and dacoities in that district ; and adds that a lambardár of Bánsahra has been murdered, and that the offender has not been found.

The writer also states that the sepoys of the Gorkha Regiment indulge much in gambling, and calls upon the military officers there to see to this.

The *Panjábí Akhbár* of the same date commends the case of Nawáb Ali Ahmad Khán, a native of Multán now residing at Lahore, to the favourable consideration of the Panjáb Government. The Nawáb, who belongs to a very high and respectable family, of which the writer gives a history, gets a pension of Rs. 100 per mensem from Government, which is by no means sufficient for his maintenance ; and the writer therefore thinks that, if the amount of his pension cannot be increased, Government should confer on him some high and respectable post in the public service, for which his literary attainments well qualify him. He is an able and accomplished man, and a good oriental scholar.

Under the heading “Karnál,” the same paper says that the number of thefts is daily increasing. Several horses have been stolen away, and cases of cattle-lifting are also frequent. The popular belief is that the Police themselves are the thieves.

The *Meerut Gazette* of the same date, noticing the three cases of the cutting off of the noses of immoral women by their husbands, which by a strange coincidence happened in the city of Rái Bareli (Oudh) on the same night, thinks it strange that for one and the same offence the

offenders in the three cases should have been sentenced to different terms of imprisonment, viz., $2\frac{1}{2}$ years, $1\frac{1}{2}$ years, and 3 months, and takes this occasion to animadvert on the English law and Courts of Justice, and the way in which justice is administered by them.

The *Kárnámah* of the 31st August states, on a reliable authority, that on the night of the 18th August a box containing jewellery worth Rs. 6,716 was stolen away from the house of Munshi Safdar Husain, Extra Assistant Commissioner of Faizabad. The Munshi has offered a reward of Rs. 1,000 to any one who traces out the thief and the stolen property.

The *Núr Afshán* of the 3rd September mentions a theft of property of the value of Rs. 1,000 in the house of a Gújar in Mauza Náleke (Siálkot).

POLITICAL (FOREIGN.)

A correspondent of the *Hindú Prakásh* of the 28th August mentions a case of highway robbery on the hills, which are still a subject of dispute between the English and the Nípál Governments, and where the former in vain endeavoured recently to fix its boundary pillars. Four merchants, who were carrying some bundles of cloth to Deogarh for sale, were attacked by a gang of eleven or twelve persons armed with clubs, who used force towards them and plundered their goods. It could not be ascertained whether the robbers belonged to English or the Nípál territory, and consequently neither of the Governments took any steps for their arrest.

COMMERCIAL.

(Railways.)

The *Panjábí Akhbár* of the 22nd August invites attention to the following grievances in connection with railways :—

(a.) The friends and relatives of native passengers are prohibited from accompanying them to the railway station to

see them depart, and coolies from carrying their luggage into the station.

This complaint has often been noticed before.

(b.) A respectable native gentleman, who went to the Dehli railway station to receive a friend of his who was expected by a train, was made to pay railway fare from Saháranpur to Dehli, although several of the railway servants had seen him on the station before the arrival of the train. The writer was an eye-witness of this.

(c.) The roofs of the Panjáb railway carriages are so constructed that even when a mere shower falls the water makes its way into the carriages, spoiling the clothes of the passengers.

(d.) Although each carriage has two holes at the top for holding lamps, only one lamp is lighted.

(e.) Carriages are so overcrowded that the passengers have often to travel standing.

(f.) At the smaller stations, the train stops for such a short time that in some cases passengers scarcely find time to alight and give up their tickets at the station for which they are bound, and are conveyed to the next station and made to pay the extra fare.

EDUCATIONAL.

The *Aligarh Institute Gazette* of the 28th August has an article on the written vernacular middle-class examination of the North-Western Provinces. It is observed that last year much injustice was done to the examinees by some examiners, especially the examiner in history, in setting questions in subjects which were not prescribed in the course; while many of them seemed to ignore that the examination was only a beginning in that direction, and that they had to deal with raw village boys whose sources of information were very limited. Then, again, in Allahabad questions were dictated to the examinees from printed papers by a Eurasian

gentleman and a boy who themselves seemed to know nothing of them, in consequence of which not only was a great portion of the time allowed for writing out the answers uselessly wasted, but in many cases the questions were wrongly dictated. And yet for all these faults the Deputy Inspector, who is held responsible for the good success of the schools in his circuit, was taken to task.

The correspondent fails to see why a sufficient number of the question papers were not printed, and expresses a hope that the Director of Public Instruction will not allow a repetition of such irregularities this year.

The writer adds that some correspondence lately took place between an Inspector and the Principal of the Muir Central College, by whom the examination is conducted, as to whether certificates should be granted to the passed examinees or not, and, in case of their being granted, who was to sign them. He is not aware what decision was finally arrived at, but remarks that the examination will certainly be scarcely worth the trouble, labour, and patience necessary for mastering a multitude of subjects, being two more (*viz.*, Natural History and Mensuration) than those prescribed for the Entrance Examination of the Calcutta University, if a mere certificate even be denied to those who pass it. Surely no one will think it worth his while to study up to that standard, if no other advantage or inducement be offered to the passed candidates than to be appointed as a *halkábandí* teacher on Rs. 5, or, if willing to study English, to be admitted as a boarder into a zila school with a pittance of Rs. 2-8-0 per mensem.

The *Akhbár-i-Anjuman-i-Panjáb* of the same date publishes an appeal to the Musalmáns to give subscriptions in aid of the Muhammadan school which it is proposed to establish at Jullundur.

A correspondent of the *Koh-i-Núr* of the 29th August, writing from Abbotabad, says that the attendance at the zila

school has increased to 107, and that the present school-house is too small to accommodate such a large number of pupils. The attention of the Director of Public Instruction is invited to this.

The *Akhbár-i-Anjuman-i-Hind* of the same date thinks it extremely hard that the students of the English department of the Canning College, Lucknow, should receive scholarships and promises of being provided with employments in the public service on completing their educational career in the college, while those of the Oriental department should be debarred from these advantages. The writer fears that this rule will tend much to dishearten the Oriental students.

The editor invites the attention of the Commissioner of Lucknow, who is the President of the College Committee, to this; and he would suggest that a circular should be issued by Government to the effect that students of all schools and all languages who may be able and well qualified will have an equal right to obtain employments in the public service. Unless such a rule is enforced Oriental learning will make no progress in India.

The following Vernacular newspapers have been examined in this report:—

(373)

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Language.	Locality.	When Published.	Date.	Date or Receipt.
27	Muir Gazette,	...	Ditto,	28th	2nd	Augt.
28	Mâlîqâ Akhbâr,	...	Ditto,	28th	3rd	"
29	Roznâmcha,	...	Daily,	28th	4th	"
30	Muhîb-i-Hind,	...	Weekly,	4th week,	4th	"
31	Nûr-ul-Anwâr,	...	Ditto,	29th	31st	"
32	Nûr-ul-Afâq,	...	Ditto,	29th	31st	"
33	Meerut Gazette,	...	Bi-monthly,	29th	31st	"
34	Urdû Dehlî Gazette,	...	Weekly,	29th	31st	"
35	Koh-i-Nâr,	...	Ditto,	29th	31st	"
36	Akhbâr-i-Anjuman-i-Hind,	...	Bi-weekly,	29th	31st	Sept.
37	Rohileund Akhbâr,	...	Lahore,	29th	1st	"
38	Panjâbî Akhbâr,	...	Moradabad,	29th	1st	"
39	Roznâmcha,	...	Lahore,	29th	2nd	"
40	Akmal-ul-Akhbâr,	...	Lucknow,	29th	5th	"
41	Gwalior Gazette,	...	Dehli,	30th	3rd	"
42	Agra Akhbâr,	...	Gwaliar,	30th	4th	"
43	Kavi Vachan 'Sudhâ,	...	Agra,	30th	5th	"
44	Dabda-i-Sikandari,	...	Benares,	30th	1st	"
45	Anjuman Akhbâr,	...	Râmpur,	31st	1st	"
46	Kârnâmah,	Shâjhâhanpur,	31st	3rd	"
47	Vritt Dhârâ,	...	Lucknow,	31st	3rd	"
48	Pattiâlâ Akhbâr,	...	Dhârâ,	31st	4th	"
49	Sadiq-ul-Akhbâr,	...	Pattiâlâ,	31st	4th	"
50	Roznâmcha,	...	Bhâwalpur,	31st	5th	"
51	Nûr-ul-Absâr,	...	Lucknow,	31st	5th	"
52	Oudh Akhbâr,	...	Allahabad,	31st	1st	"
53	Tâj-ul-Akhbâr,	...	Ditto,	31st	2nd	"
54	Nusim-i-Jaunpur,	...	Ditto,	31st	3rd	"

55	<i>Shola-i-Tür,</i>	...	Ditto,	Cawnpore,
56	<i>Malla-i-Nur,</i>	...	Ditto,	Ditto,
57	<i>Anwār-ul-Akhbār,</i>	...	Ditto,	Ditto,
58	<i>Muraqqa-i-Tuzrib,</i>	...	Ditto,	Bi-monthly,
59	<i>Khair Khwāh-i-Panjab,</i>	...	Ditto,	Weekly,
60	<i>Risah-i-Am,</i>	...	Ditto,	Ditto,
61	<i>Ab-i-Hayat-i-Hind,</i>	...	Ditto,	Bi-monthly,
62	<i>Mayo Memorial Gazette,</i>	...	Ditto,	Bi-monthly,
63	<i>Jalwa-i-Tür,</i>	...	Urdú and Hindí,	Siálkot,
64	<i>Najm-ul-Akhbār,</i>	...	Urdú,	Agra,
65	<i>Sayyid-ul-Akhbār,</i>	...	Urdú,	Dehli,
66	<i>Almora Akhbār,</i>	...	Urdú,	Meerut,
67	<i>Samay Vinod,</i>	...	Urdú and Hindí,	Urdú,
68	<i>Roznāmcha,</i>	...	Ditto,	Ditto,
69	<i>Ditto,</i>	...	Urdú,	Ditto,
70	<i>Akhbār-i-Am,</i>	...	Ditto,	Ditto,
71	<i>Rohilkhand Akhbār,</i>	...	Ditto,	Lahore,
72	<i>Nur Afshān,</i>	...	Ditto,	Moradabad,
73	<i>Oudh Akhbār,</i>	...	Ditto,	Ludhiāna,
				Lucknow,

ALLAHABAD :
The 14th September, 1874.

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